

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
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INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USNMR SHAPE BEL
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES IT
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 0066

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC
USCINCEUR FOR POLAD
USDOCOSOUTH FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CY, TU, US
SUBJECT: NEWSPAPERS REPORT ON MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE

1. GREEK CYPRIOT NEWSPAPER PHILELEFTHEROS, AGON AND MAKHI
REPORTED JAN 10 THAT TURKISH SIDE HAS AGREED TO FORMATION
OF A MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE INCORPORATING PRINCIPLES
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OF MAJORITY DECISION-MAKING AND EXHUMATION OF BODIES.
ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, WHICH CITES "AUTHORITATIVE
INFORMATION", TURKS INTEND TO LINK FORMATION OF
MISSING PERSONS COMMITTEE WITH SUBSTANTIVE AND POLITICAL
ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE THAT
"SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS" TOWARD AN OVERALL SOLUTION HAS
BEEN MADE WITH A VIEW TOWARDS LIFTING THE ARMS EMBARGO

AGAINST TURKEY. THE ARTICLES QUOTE AN UNNAMED
"AUTHORITATIVE GOVERNMENT SOURCE" AS STATING THAT GOC
WOULD WELCOME AGREEMENT ON FORMATION OF COMMITTEE, BUT
MISSING PERSONS ISSUE IS PURELY HUMANITARIAN AND CANNOT
BE CONNECTED TO POLITICAL ASPECTS OF CYPRUS PROBLEM.
(MAKHI ACCOUNT ALSO NOTED THAT US AMBASSADOR MEZVINSKY
HAS CHANGED HIS MIND AND WILL NOT BE COMING TO CYPRUS
TO PURSUE NEGOTIATIONS ON FORMATION OF THE COMMITTEE.)

2. COMMENT: PUBLICATION OF THIS REPORT, WHICH IS
OBVIOUSLY GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED, IS AT BEST A MISCHIEVOUS
NEEDLING OF THE TURKS AND AT WORST COULD BE CONSIDERED
AN EFFORT TO SABOTAGE PROSPECTS FOR CONCLUDING
ARRANGEMENTS TO FORM THE COMMITTEE. IN ANY EVENT, GOC
HAS GIVEN ANOTHER CLEAR INDICATION THAT IT WILL FIGHT
ANY ATTEMPT TO CONSIDER FORMATION OF A MISSING PERSONS
COMMITTEE AS A "POSITIVE STEP" IN THE POLITICAL SENSE.
CRAWFORD

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Message Attributes

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